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SOURCE Anhwei Jih-pao.

CHINESE LABORATORIES PRODUCE NEW SEED GERMICIDE

After 2 years of research, the research laboratories in Theoretical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have succeeded in the manufacture of the seed germicide called "Hsi Li-sheng." The germicide will prevent diseases of wheat and cotton plants. Factory production of Hsi Li-sheng has been tried out successfully.

Hsi Li-sheng is a mercury compound that can prevent smut in wheat and pink boll rot and wilt in cotton. The large quantities of this germicide needed for agricultural production have hitherto been imported.

In the laboratory study of the production of ethyl mercuric chloride which is a necessary raw material for Hsi Li-sheng, it was discovered that in the process an intermediate product, diethyl mercury was produced without using a catalyst, and with a higher production rate than when using a catalyst. This discovery not only simplifies the processes of production and lessens the cost but also overthrows the century-old theory that to produce diethyl mercury, either acetate or acetone (both derivatives of acetic acid), must be used as a catalyst.

The cost of the domestically manufactured Hsi Li-sheng is less than that of the imported germicide. The foreign product costs 24 million yuan per ton while the domestic article costs only 15 million yuan per ton, of which 5 million yuan is the cost of packaging.

Careful laboratory and field tests have proved the domestically produced Hsi Li-sheng a more potent germicide than the American product.

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